DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Increase in Price of Tea

4445. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of tea have been increasing continously;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check the rising trend in prices of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) While average auction prices of teas at Indian auctions have increased by 8.66% during January-July, 1996 as compared to the corresponding period of 1995, retail prices of consumer preference medium variety teas have not registered increase during the first 6/7 months of the current year.

(b) and (c). Marginal recovery in auction prices of tea during the current year as compared to depressed level of prices during 1994 and 1995 is on account of better demand. No special steps are envisaged to check the prices as increase in the prices is not very high. Tea Board, however, monitoring tea prices both at auction and retail level on a continuing basis.

[English]

Industrial Park in Assam

4446. SHRI KESHAV MAHANTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any industrial park in the States with particular reference to Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Assam has any share in that industrial park; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Upto now 18 Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) have been approved to be set up in Amingaon near Guwahati (Assam), Dhandari Kalan (Punjab), Ambarnath (Maharashtra), Kakkanad (Kerala), Baddi (H.P.), Sitapura (Rajasthan), Hoodi (Karnataka), Kundli (Haryana), Surajpur (U.P.), Gammidipoondi (Tamil Nadu), Pashamylaram (Andhra Pradesh), Savli (Gujarat), Hazipur (Bihar), Durgapur (West Bengal), Byrnihat (Meghalaya), Siya (Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Orissa) and Samba (J& K).

(c) and (d). As per the project proposal of the Government of Assam, the EPIP is to be financed as under:-

Govt. of India Grant	Rs. 10.00 crores
Government of Assam/ Assam Industrial Development Corporation.	Rs. 4.62 crores

Examination for Clerks in Banking Service

4447. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both the Banking Services Recruitment Boards of Delhi and Lucknow have fixed the same date of examination, i.e., December 16, 1996 for the posts of Clerks, etc.;

(b) whether the Government are aware that most of the candidates are going to appear in both examinations;

(c) if so, the jurisdiction for fixing the same date for the examination by both the Boards;

(d) whether the Government propose to change the date of one of the Boards to protect the interest of the candidates who desire to avail of the chances in both the Boards; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. However, common date of examination is 15.12.1996 and not 16.12.1996.

(b) to (e). The Government had, in November, 1990, inter alia, advised the Banking Service Recruitment Boards (BSRBs) that as far as possible, the examinations by the BSRBs for various cadres may be conducted on common dates.

The Government have, however, decided to re-examine the matter. Pending re-examination, the BSRBs have been advised to hold the clerical examinations scheduled to be held on 15.12.1996 on different dates.

[Translation]

Hard Coke Oven and Plants

4448. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minster of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hard coke oven and plants in the country as on 1982-83 and the quantum of coal required for production of hard coke at that time;

(b) the number of oven and plants in working condition at present alongwith the quantum of coal required for production of hard coke;

(c) the number of employees working in these oven and plants during 1982-83 and number of these workers at present;

(d) whether many employees who were working in those oven and plants have now been engaged in other works; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the work in which they have been engaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The management Information System maintained by coal companies does not give information on the number of hard coke ovens and plants in the country in 1982-83 or the quantum of coal required by them in that year.

(b) As per the information made available by Coal India Limited, currently 176 such plants are drawing raw coal from CIL sources. The monthly requirement of these plants is around 4 lakh tonnes.

(c) to (e). The coal companies do not have any information on the number of employees working in various hard coke ovens in the country in 1982-83 or even at present. Presently more than 176 coke oven units are operational in the small and medium sectors spread over the length and breadth of the country. The coal companies do not maintain any information of the employees of these coke oven plants.

[English]

Recurring Deposits in Post Offices

4449. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total arrears to be paid as Commission to the Recurrent Deposit (RD) Collectors of Post Office, State-wise as on date; and

(b) the measures which have been taken by the Government to clear the arrears at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total arrears to be paid as Commission to the Recurring Deposit Collectors (MPKBY Agents) to the Post Office, State-wise, are given in the attached statement.

(b) The measures taken by the Government to clear the arrears include;

(i) Authorising the Regional Directors to issue outstation cheques upto Rs. 5000/- to the Agents; instead of the earlier practice of issuing Bank Drafts.

(ii) Issuance of a set of guidelines by the National Savings Commissioner to all the Regional Directors to ensure quick payment within a maximum period of 8 weeks.

(iii) Conducting of one day Orientation Training Programme for MPKBY Agents throughout the country to ensure expeditious processing of payment of Commission claims and to motivate them. The Programme was successfully conducted on 2.9.1995 in all the Regional Director's and Deputy Regional Directors' Head Quarters throughout the country.

STATEMENT

(In lakhs of Rs.)

S.No.	Name of State	Commission amounts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	380
2.	Assam	29
3.	Bihar	6
4.	Delhi	62
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	213
7.	Haryana	69
8.	Himachal Pradesh	26
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.
10.	Karnataka	9
11.	Kerala	203
12.	Madhya Pradesh	85
13.	Maharashtra	437
14.	Orissa	5